

Moroccan

American

Center for Policy

5648

January 29, 2009

Ms. Jean Schmidt
Paralegal Specialist
US Department of Justice
10th & Constitution Avenue, NW
Criminal Division/Counterespionage Section/Registration Unit
Bond Building - Room 9300
Washington, DC 20530

Re: Registration No. 5648 (Moroccan-American Center for Policy)

Dear Ms. Schmidt:

I am writing to confirm that the documentation listed below and pertaining to the Registrant is what is required by the Department of Justice for the filing and labeling of informational materials.

1. Dianne Sutherland/Petroleum Africa: "Letter to the Editor in response to oil exploration article." (1/16/2009)
2. Erik Means, Anthea Pitt, Upstream Online: "Letter to the Editor in response to oil exploration article." (1/21/2009)
3. Martin Gottlieb, Intl Herald Tribune: "Letter to the Editor in response to article on the EU-Morocco Fisheries Agreement" (1/28/2009)
4. The Editor, The Economist: "Letter to the Editor in response to article on freedom of speech in Morocco" (1/29/2009)

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Fatima-Zohra Kurtz
Fatima-Zohra Kurtz
Director of Operations
Moroccan American Management Service

Moroccan American
Center for Policy

January 27, 2009

Martin Gottlieb, Editor, Global Editions
International Herald Tribune
620 Eighth Avenue
New York, NY 10018
USA

Delivered via email to: letters@iht.com

Dear Mr. Gottlieb,

IHT recently ran a story on threats by the Polisario Front to legally challenge the EC-Morocco Fisheries Partnership Agreement, renewed in 2007 to provide sustainable access by European fishing fleets to fishing grounds off Morocco, including Western Sahara. The Polisario claims, which have been trotted out for years, disregard the facts, do a disservice to your readers, and are discounted by the international community.

The UN has recognized Morocco as Administering Authority in W. Sahara since the 1975 Madrid treaty, when Spain withdrew as colonial power. As such, Morocco has full authority to enter agreements managing the region's resources, provided results benefit the region's people or defray administering costs. Neither the Polisario nor the entity created to justify its claims, the Saharan Arab Democratic Republic, is recognized by the UN. Neither has UN authority or legal basis to develop the region's resources.

Today, the vast majority of W. Saharans live as Moroccans, freely choosing their representatives and local leaders in internationally certified elections. The Polisario has had the same President for three decades, a dubious distinction for any entity claiming to be 'democratic.'

A solution in W. Sahara lies not in threats or intimidation. Nor in holding thousands of Sahrawis hostage in Algerian camps. Algeria and the Polisario need to keep negotiating – as the UN urges – on a compromise based on Morocco's proposal for autonomy. This is the best, and only realistic, path for giving the region and its people the future they deserve.

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January 29, 2009

The Editor
The Economist
25 St James's Street
London SW1A 1HG
United Kingdom

Delivered via email to: letters@economist.com

Dear Sir,

We agree with the *Economist* that Morocco "has made much progress towards freedom of speech." ("Sacred and profane", Jan. 8) Over the past decade Morocco has emerged as a remarkable model for progress on a wide range of social, political, and economic reforms.

The article notes Morocco sets a high standard of allegiance to 'God, Nation and King.' Yes it does. This forms the basis for social and cultural cohesion that enables Moroccans to enjoy tolerance and cultural diversity absent from other countries in the region and has made possible HM King Mohammed VI's ability to promote reforms including:

- In 2004, Morocco's historic *Family Code* reforms, or *moudawana*, enshrined equal rights for women;
- In 2004-5, Morocco's Truth and Reconciliation Commission held unprecedented hearings on past abuses, compensating thousands of victims;
- In 2007, Morocco held its freest, fairest parliamentary elections ever, certified internationally;
- In 2009, *Freedom House* index ranked Morocco the only N. African country to rise above 'Not Free'.

As the King has said on many occasions, Morocco today is a nation on the move, on an "irreversible" path to full democracy. It is a model not because it lacks challenges, but because of its shared determination – by King, lawmakers, religious leaders, and civil society – to face its challenges and build consensus solutions.

Robert M. Holley, Executive Director
Moroccan American Center for Policy
Washington, DC

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January 16, 2009

Dianne Sutherland, Chief Editor
Petroleum Africa
5757 Westheimer Rd. #3-224
Houston, Tx 77057

Delivered via email to: chiefeditor@petroleum-africa.com

Dear Ms. Sutherland,

Your publication, Petroleum Africa, recently published in its online edition a letter from the Polisario Front regarding the propriety of seismic soundings being conducted off-shore of the Western Sahara for the purpose of petroleum exploration. Unfortunately, the letter makes a number of false and highly misleading statements that should not go unchallenged.

First, the letter alleges that Morocco "illegally" occupies Western Sahara. In fact, Morocco's presence in the region is a result of the treaty negotiated among Morocco, Mauritania, and Spain in Madrid in 1975 when Spain withdrew from the territory as the colonial power in the area. The United Nations, which recognized the validity of the Madrid Treaty, also recognizes Morocco as the Administering Authority in Western Sahara, which is officially designated as a non-self-governing territory until such time as the issue of sovereignty in the region is finally resolved.

As the Administering Authority in the region, Morocco has full authority to enter into legitimate contracts for the development of the region's natural resources provided that the results of such development are used to the benefit of the people of the region or to defray Morocco's other incurred costs as the region's Administering Authority. In making its claim, the Polisario has taken out of context and manipulated the full findings of the 2002 advisory opinion of the United Nations Legal Affairs Division, which explains the extent to which Morocco is authorized to undertake such developments and conditions governing use of any resulting benefits. To suggest, as the letter does, that Morocco is illegally exploiting the region's natural resources, is quite simply and factually wrong. The Polisario is no doubt aware of this inaccuracy, as it is a commonplace element of their on-going misinformation campaign against Morocco.

The Polisario, and the entity it created to justify its claim to sovereignty in the Western Sahara, The Saharan Arab Democratic Republic (SADR), is not recognized by the United Nations. It has no standing as

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Administering Authority for the region and no legal basis for entering contractual relations to develop the region's resources for the benefit for those living there. It is also important to note that the vast majority of the region's inhabitants, both Sahrawi and others, are living in Morocco where they have been able to freely elect their own legislators, mayors, community council presidents, and members of the Parliament, and other local officials in internationally certified free and fair elections. The Polisario leadership, by contrast, has now been in place with the same President for more than three decades, a dubious distinction for any entity claiming to be "democratic."

The thinly veiled threat implied by the letter is not the first time the Polisario has resorted to this kind of attempt to intimidate private foreign companies doing legitimate business in the region. Nor is it likely to be the last.

The solution to the problem of the Western Sahara lies not in threats and attempts at blackmail and intimidation. Nor does it lie in holding tens of thousands of Sahrawis hostage in refugee camps in Algeria. Rather, what is truly needed at this point is for Algeria and the Polisario Front to continue to negotiate – as the United Nations Security Council urges – towards a compromise political solution based on Morocco's proposal of autonomy for the region under Moroccan sovereignty. Therein lies the best, and only realistic, path to giving the region and its people the promising future they deserve.

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Erik Means, Editor-In-Chief
and
Anthea Pitt, Online-editor
Upstream and UpstreamOnline.com
Grev Wedels plass 5
PO Box 1182 Sentrum
N-0107 Oslo, Norway

**Delivered via email to: erik.means@upstreamonline.com and
anthea.pitt@upstreamonline.com**

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